

EXHIBIT

9

DATE

4/8/2013

SB

175

# FAIRVIEW SCHOOLS

Richland Co. Dist. 13 (Elementary)  
Richland Co. Dist. 3 (High School)

(406) 742-5265 • FAX: (406) 742-3336

P.O. BOX 467 • FAIRVIEW, MT 59221

Matt Schriver, *Superintendent* • Luke Kloker, *Principal* • Jacklyn Young, *Business Manager*

Dear Representatives,

The 2013 Legislative Session is key to the future of all Montanans and we appreciate your time and commitment working on behalf of our State. Oil and Gas Counties, Communities and Schools are an integral part of the current revenue stream for the State.

Our state is referred to as the "Treasure State" because of our many mineral reserves. As these resources have been developed in Eastern Montana, it has been both a blessing in terms of the revenue generated but also a curse in terms of impacts.

SB 175 will benefit every school in Montana. You've heard and seen the impact we are feeling in the eastern Montana schools. I wanted to give you a few impact facts from Fairview.

August 2011, Fairview School kindergarten began the year with 10 students, three weeks later the class had exploded to 21. We hired an additional teacher and two additional one on one aides to assist newly enrolled special needs children. This cost the district \$59,313.00 that was not planned/budgeted for. This school year the two additional aides were still needed for new students and a ½ time kindergarten teacher was hired in October when the kindergarten enrollment increased for a second year.

SB175 will address the fluctuation in enrollment with the three times a year enrollment counts.

Fairview School as other oil impact schools has increased classified employee salaries in order to retain workers. We've seen a 40.9% increase since 2007 in custodial, kitchen, secretaries and classroom aides to stay competitive with the oil service positions available in our community. This is a Catch 22 situation. Without the oil, the funds wouldn't be available and without the oil, the huge salary spike would not have happened.

Due to the housing shortage and the extreme rent, Fairview School purchased two mobile homes and placed on school property to house staff in 2011. Without the funds to purchase these homes we would have two vacant staff positions when school started. Filling positions is not an easy task. The major factor is the lack of affordable housing. This year we were very lucky to find a retired teacher residing in Fairview who was willing to go back into the classroom half days.

SB175 will help us address the housing shortage for staff by leaving 130% of the oil revenue in the impacted schools.